

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON
SPANISH TREATY

- THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARD THE
FOLLOWING WITNESSES FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE PROPOSED TREATY
OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH SPAIN TODAY, MARCH 12:
PAUL O'DWYER, PRESIDENT, COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK;
JOHN COVERDALE, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY;
WILLIAM GILBERT CARTER, AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN
SPAIN, INC.; WILLIAM BRAASCH WATSON, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN-
ITIES, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY; RT. REV.
MSGR. CHARLES O. RICE, HOLY ROSARY CHURCH, PITTSBURGH,
PENNSYLVANIA; ABE FEINGLASS, INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT,
AMALGAMATED MEAT CUTTERS AND BUTCHER WORKMEN OF NORTH
AMERICA; AND HENRY FONER, PRESIDENT, JOINT BOARD, FUR,
LEATHER & MACHINE WORKERS UNION, NEW YORK.

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- A TOTAL OF FOUR SENATORS WERE PRESENT DURING THE HEARING,

DEMOCRATS SPARKMAN OF ALABAMA AND SYMINGTON OF MISSOURI AND
REPUBLICANS CASE OF NEW JERSEY AND JAVITS OF NEW YORK. ALL
EXCEPT SPARKMAN LEFT AFTER THE SECOND WITNESS.

- O'DWYER CRITICIZED THE TREATY AS MILITARILY USELESS,

WASTEFUL OF TAX DOLLARS, AND SUPPORTIVE OF A REGIME WHICH
HAS NOT CHANGED ONE BIT FROM THE REPRESSIVE FRANCO ERA.
HE HEATEDLY OPPOSED AIDING DICTATORSHIP IN SPAIN
WHEN THE CITIES WERE BANKRUPT IN AMERICA. IN QUESTIONING
O'DWYER, SYMINGTON STATED THAT SPAIN OUGHT TO PAY THE
US FOR PUTTING ITS TROOPS THERE, BUT EXPRESSED NO SPECIFIC
OPPOSITION TO THE TREATY. CASE ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT OF
SENATOR PELL'S BELIEF THAT THINGS WERE CHANGING IN SPAIN.
O'DWYER WAS CERTAIN PELL WAS ERRONEOUS.

- COVERDALE SUPPORTED THE TREATY, BUT FEARED THAT
DEMOCRATIZATION MIGHT BE MOVING TOO SLOWLY FOR THE NEW
GOVERNMENT'S OWN GOOD. HE ACCEPTED THE DEPARTMENT'S
POSITION THAT THE US HAS IMPORTANT MILITARY AND POLITICAL
INTERESTS AND AGREED WITH THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE
TREATY SERVES THOSE INTERESTS. COVERDALE VOICED SUPPORT
FOR THE CLARK-EAGLETON RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC
PROGRESS IN SPAIN BUT FELT IT SHOULD GO FURTHER IN
CRITICIZING THE PRESENT PACE OF REFORM. SYMINGTON AGAIN
STATED THAT SPAIN OUGHT TO PAY US FOR PUTTING OUR TROOPS
THERE. COVERDALE REPLIED THAT SUCH A DEMAND WOULD BE
UNPRECEDENTED WORLDWIDE, AND FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL
REASONS THE NEW GOVERNMENT COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO
ACCEDE TO IT.

- AT THIS POINT CASE, SYMINGTON AND JAVITS LEFT THE ROOM,
AND FEW QUESTIONS WERE PUT TO THE REMAINING WITNESSES.
CARTER PRAISED THE TREATY FOR THE BENEFITS OF INCREASED
TRADE IT PROMISED TO BRING BOTH COUNTRIES. WATSON
OPPOSED RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY AT THIS TIME, ARGUING
THAT DELAY IN RATIFICATION WOULD CONVEY OUR INTEREST IN
DEMOCRATIC REFORM BETTER THAN A RESOLUTION. WATSON FEARED
THAT THE US COULD EASILY END UP SUPPORTING AN UNSTABLE
GOVERNMENT IF RATIFICATION CAME TOO QUICKLY. HE ALSO
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BELIEVED THE BASES WERE MILITARILY USELESS AND EXPRESSED
HOPE WE MIGHT EVENTUALLY HAVE A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP
WITH A STRONG DEMOCRATIC SPAIN.

- RICE, FEINGLASS, AND FONER ATTACKED THE TREATY FOR
PROPOSING AN ALLIANCE WITH A REPRESSIVE DICTATORSHIP.
FEINGLASS AND FONER WERE ESPECIALLY CRITICAL OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN FOR ITS TREATMENT OF LABOR UNIONS AND

PROTESTING WORKERS. NONE ADDRESSED QUESTIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY OR SECURITY EXCEPT TO STATE THAT THE US OUGHT NOT TO ALLY ITSELF WITH REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS. FONER ALSO READ A RESOLUTION OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF NEW YORK CONDEMNING THE TREATY FOR MOVING TOO HASTILY TO GIVE MORAL, ECONOMIC

AND MILITARY SUPPORT TO THE NEW REGIME BEFORE FULL DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

- THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON THE TREATY, ALSO SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY, WILL BE HELD MARCH 24. KISSINGER

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